

Mr. Swygert knew Howard wouldn't make its \$250 million goal without significant alumni participation, but he also knew that the university needed to do some work before it approached them for money. A previous capital campaign had been started in the 1980s with a goal of \$100 million but was never completed. At the start of Mr. Swygert's presidency, annual giving by alumni was at about 4 percent.

As one of only two federally chartered universities, Howard receives direct appropriations from the federal government each year. Congress had noted the low alumni giving rate, and one of the first things lawmakers asked Mr. Swygert to do as university president was to increase it. A higher giving rate would provide evidence that Howard graduates valued the education they received and that Congress should continue to maintain its level of financial support for the institution. This year Congress gave Howard University \$204.3 million and its hospital \$28.9 million, according to the Department of Education.

During the campaign, Howard's annual alumni-giving rate went as high as 20 percent, and it is now at 17 percent.

The key to getting more alumni to give, Mr. Swygert said, was to re-engage them with Howard by showing them the university's key asset: its students. Howard ran ads in local and national newspapers featuring students and sent postcards to alumni introducing them to Howard's Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright scholars, as well as distinguished alumni.

"People give to students, they give to ideas, they give to memory," Mr. Swygert said. "The idea of enabling a young person to go forth and do well is a very powerful notion."

Howard hired Virgil E. Ecton, who raised more than \$1.6 billion for UNCF in his 31-year career there, to run the campaign. As vice president for university advancement, Mr. Ecton oversaw upgrades to Howard's Web site, alumni magazine, and advancement office. Alumni records were improved, and the database of Howard graduates grew from 30,000 entries to more than 60,000.

#### BACKING A WINNER

Early on, trustees helped create momentum for the campaign with several large gifts. Frank Savage, an alumnus, chairman emeritus of the board, and chief executive of Savage Holdings LLC, an international financial-services company, announced he was giving \$5 million to the campaign. Richard D. Parsons, a trustee who led the campaign and is chairman of Time Warner, gave more than \$1 million. James E. Silcott, a Los Angeles architect, alumnus, and trustee, gave \$3 million. Mr. Swygert, an alumnus, donated more than \$2 million.

"That sent a clear signal to trustees, the giving community, and the community [at large] that we were serious about this campaign," Mr. Ecton said.

Mr. Ecton, Mr. Swygert, and trustees went on the road, appearing at a series of alumni events around the country. At the events, which drew up to 1,000 people in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Miami, Houston, and other cities, alumni would get up and pledge their support to the university, and the events began to take on a competitive spirit, Mr. Ecton said. One alumnus in Philadelphia pledged \$1 million, the Miami event raised \$8 million, and the New York event, held at the new headquarters of Time Warner, resulted in between \$25 million and \$30 million in pledges, he said.

"People like to be associated with a winner," Mr. Ecton said. "It was clear we were winning."

At the end of the campaign, 33 percent of the money raised was from Howard alumni.

Nationally, in 2007, alumni giving was 27.8 percent of total private giving, according to the Voluntary Support of Education survey.

One student who benefited directly from the money raised was Raquel SK Thompson, who graduated from Howard in May with a degree in architecture and received a trustees' scholarship during her last two years. The scholarship, which was backed by money raised during the campaign, covered half her tuition.

The money was a great help, said Ms. Thompson, who is from Barbados and wanted to attend a historically black college. The financial pressures of tuition, an unfavorable exchange rate, the cost of materials for her architecture classes, and restrictions on working off the campus were difficult for her and her parents, Ms. Thompson said, and without assistance she may have had to cut back on classes and work more on the campus in order to save money.

"It helped me finish school," said Ms. Thompson, who is now looking for a job in Washington or New York. Without the money, "I definitely think I would have been there another year," she said.

Both Mr. Swygert and Mr. Ecton say Howard should tap more alumni for larger donations in its next campaign. Fifty-one alumni gave more than \$1 million, and both officials think there is potential there to raise more. Mr. Swygert, who is retiring at the end of June, believes Howard's next campaign should have a goal of at least \$1 billion. The top institutions have campaigns that size, and Mr. Swygert says Howard should be in that group.

"I think it's a necessity," Mr. Swygert said. "It's a stretch, but \$250 million was a stretch."

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. RENATE REIMSCHUESSEL

##### HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Dr. Renate Reimschuessel, recently nominated for the 2008 Service to America Homeland Security Medal. By honoring excellence in the Federal workforce, the Service to America Medal sends a compelling message to the American people about the importance of a strong civil service and inspires a new generation of Americans to public service.

The Homeland Security Medal recognizes a federal employee for a significant contribution to the nation in activities related to homeland security. Dr. Reimschuessel has been nominated for her scientific breakthrough that identified the cause of the largest pet food recall in history and is currently conducting critical research to guarantee the safety of imported foods.

In 2007, the FDA issued the largest pet food recall in history due to the significant number of pet fatalities. As a research biologist for the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine in Maryland, Dr. Reimschuessel was asked by the FDA to help investigate the cause of the hundreds of pet deaths and illnesses. Just weeks after she began her investigation, Dr. Reimschuessel discovered exactly why so many animals were getting sick, a discovery that is improving the safety of imported foods for both animals and humans.

Due to Dr. Reimschuessel's discovery, the United States has increased surveillance for melamine and related compounds in food ingredients. In an effort to identify potential risks to humans, she is continuing to test the effects of melamine in chickens, pigs, and fish. Dr. Reimschuessel's research helped improve the way our government preserves scientific specimens and identified the ability of nontoxic compounds to become toxic when combined. These discoveries helped resolve an immediate crisis, and her continued efforts are helping protect the U.S. food supply from tainted imports and toxic chemical combinations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Dr. Renate Reimschuessel in her nomination for the 2008 Service to America Homeland Security Medal. Her tireless investigation into the cause of the mass illness of pets in 2007 not only resolved a nationwide crisis, but initiated a series of scientific improvements, both in the veterinary world and the in safety of our imported food supply. It is with great pride that I congratulate Dr. Reimschuessel on her exemplary efforts to help guard against ongoing threats to the safety of the U.S. food supply.

#### TRIBUTE TO FRED ZELLER

##### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate West Marshall Iowa's girls' basketball head coach, Fred Zeller, for reaching the milestone of 500 career victories during this past 2008 season.

On January 22nd, the West Marshall Trojans defeated Woodward-Granger to give Coach Zeller his 500th career win during his 744th consecutive game coached. The road to this milestone began 37 years ago in Vinton, Iowa, where Coach Zeller began coaching junior high and freshman girls' basketball. He then moved on to coach LaPorte City for 14 years, Southeast Polk for two years, and in 1990 became head coach at West Marshall where he remains today.

Coach Zeller led four teams to the girls' state basketball tournament; LaPorte City in 1986 and West Marshall in 1998, 1999 and 2000. He was inducted into the Iowa Girls Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2003. He also served as the West Marshall baseball coach until a couple of years ago.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Coach Fred Zeller on his coaching success and this milestone achievement. It is an honor to represent Coach Zeller in Congress, and I wish him the best as he continues to provide a positive impact as a role model and educator.

#### JELLYSTONE PARK 30TH ANNIVERSARY—

##### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before

you today to recognize the 30th Anniversary of Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort in Portage, Indiana. To commemorate this special occasion, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park will be holding an anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 5, 2008, at Jellystone Park in Portage, Indiana.

Jellystone Park was established in 1978 in order to provide camping and entertainment to vacationing families from across America. The Portage, Indiana, Jellystone Park is one of over 70 parks in the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort Franchise System. The Jellystone Park Board of Directors are: President Rochelle Carmichael, Vice President Don Butler, Secretary Connie Williams, Treasurer George Hill, Park Director Carolyn Julovich, and members: Marlene Jacobs, Tina Green, and Charles Taylor.

Every year, thousands of families vacation at the Portage Jellystone Park to share time together and enjoy its amenities. The Park offers a fulltime recreation program, a private lake, beaches, fishing, rentals, arcade room, and several pools.

In addition to the weekly activities, the 30th Anniversary will feature a special commemorative ceremony, followed by live music at the Yogi Bear Stage and a fireworks display over the lake at dusk.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp-Resort on their 30th Anniversary. Their many great accomplishments and hard work throughout the years are worthy of commendation.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING BELMONT, OHIO FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR BICENTENNIAL

#### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Belmont, Ohio was founded in August of 1808 by Joseph Wright; and

Whereas, the residents of Belmont, Ohio are active, dedicated members of their Ohio community; and

Whereas, all citizens of Belmont, both past and present, will be honored with a multiple day bicentennial celebration that will include a pig roast, barn dance, antique car show, and old-fashioned games for children; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Belmont, Ohio and its residents for their contributions to our community and country.

THE DAILY 45: ERIC KEITH WALTON

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. My heart goes out to the family

in Grand Rapids, Michigan who lost a dear loved one.

Thirty-eight-year-old Eric Keith Walton, slain in his home Monday, couldn't have put up much of a fight because he had been receiving dialysis treatments for kidney failure and was weakened, his family said.

Eric was apparently the victim of a home invasion. According to newspaper reports, Walton was shot twice, in the stomach and chest.

I was terribly impacted as I read this statement from a family member: "They really hurt us on this one. Everybody comes up and says, 'We love him to death.' He raised kids that weren't even his. I can't believe this."

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

#### IN HONOR OF JERRY PRIETO, RETIRING FRESNO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a man who has been a tireless voice for agriculture in my home district of Fresno County, California. On June 29, 2008, Jerry Prieto will be retiring as the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner after over 35 years of dedicated service to Fresno County.

Agriculture continues to be California's number one industry with Fresno County ranking as the number one agricultural producing county in California and the nation. The fertile soils of Fresno County support over 300 different crops, valued at near \$5 billion annually to the economy of California. Many things contribute to California's bountiful crops, but one significant underlying factor in Fresno County's agricultural success has been the presence of Jerry Prieto as its lead advocate.

Jerry has never been a stranger to agriculture. The son of a migrant farm worker, Jerry was raised on a small family farm near Corcoran, California. Jerry attended California State University, Fresno, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science. In 1974, Jerry began working for the Fresno County Department of Agriculture advancing to the position of Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in 1980. In 1999, he was appointed to the position of Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures. In this position, Jerry has been responsible for promoting and regulating the Nation's number one agricultural producing county, and protecting the county's environment and the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Among Jerry's varied accomplishments is serving on then Governor Davis' State Committee on Terrorism. Jerry has also been active on many boards and for 4 years served as chairman of the Fresno County Department Heads Council. Mr. Prieto is a member of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Conservation Steering Committee, chairman of the Fresno County Council of Governments Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee, and the Fresno County Land Conservation

Committee. He is the immediate president of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association and was the first Agricultural Commissioner to serve two terms as President.

Jerry Prieto recently was quoted as saying, "All I ever wanted to do was to be a farmer." Part of what Jerry will now be able to focus on more is the acreage he owns. He plans to spend time with wife Cindy, his two children and two grandchildren. He also hopes to catch up on a little fishing. Though only days away from retirement, Jerry is still found diligently carrying out his responsibilities. His prompt and earnest action concerning the drought now facing California, mobilized Fresno County resources to quickly produce valuable data necessary for the Governor's office to declare an official drought emergency. I know that Jerry will continue to energetically advocate for Fresno County's Agriculture needs, not only up to, but well beyond his retirement date. It is only fitting that I recognize Jerry Prieto today before this Chamber and the country for unflinching service to his community, State and Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GRIFOLS USA TO LOS ANGELES AND THE UNITED STATES.

#### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Grifols USA to my community and other communities across the country.

This Friday will mark 5 years since Grifols USA began operating its facility in East Los Angeles. That is 5 years of over 600 jobs for residents of East Los Angeles and the surrounding area. Furthermore, Grifols' steady growth and expansion will continue to present additional opportunities to my constituents for years to come, and well into the future.

Grifols' prosperity has positively impacted many communities, not just my district. Currently, Grifols operates 78 plasma donor facilities, in 27 States across the country, which provide skilled and entry-level employment opportunities to over 3,000 Americans.

Perhaps more praiseworthy than Grifols' economic contributions though, is the company's mission. I would like to honor Grifols for its commitment to producing unique, life-saving medicines to treat small, chronically ill patient populations. The company's unwavering dedication to the development of safer, more effective plasma therapies, and progressing methods, has been a benefit to countless patients around the world who suffer from a number of disorders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Grifols for the company's positive presence in many of our Nation's communities and tireless commitment to improve the lives of patients with chronic illnesses.